

notes

A Publication for the Residents of Phoenix

March 2004

Buy a bench and join your neighbors outside

Remember those wonderful days when people would spend time relaxing on a bench on their front porch?

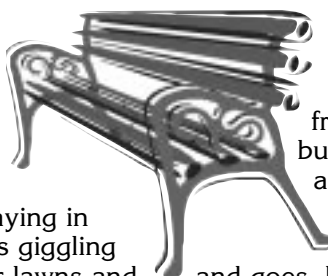
From there they could see their entire block. They could watch neighborhood children playing in their yards. They could see teens giggling on the corner, men mowing their lawns and women weeding their flower beds.

Neighbors would walk past and wave. Others would stop and chat for a while.

While it was a great place to relax and trade pleasantries with your neighbors, the porch bench also was a symbol of stability and safety because it brought people together.

Mayor Phil Gordon wants to see a little of that return to Phoenix.

He's urging residents to buy a bench and once again sit in front of their homes. Not



only will it bring people together again, but it'll help protect neighbors and neighborhoods from vandalism, assaults, burglaries, car thefts, drug sales and other illegal goings on.

"Get to know your neighbors. Watch who comes and goes. Know who is alone, who has children or who doesn't belong in your neighborhood. Be vigilant. Pay attention. Help each other out," he suggests.

To get things started, Home Depot has donated 1,000 benches to the city that will be distributed to neighborhood leaders.

The hope is that the initial effort will lead to others joining in by buying a bench of their own and joining their neighbors and friends on their front porches and in their front yards.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov.

Dogs can take a break at Sky Harbor

Traveling dogs will find some first class accommodations for stretching their legs, getting a drink of water and taking care of other business when they pass through Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

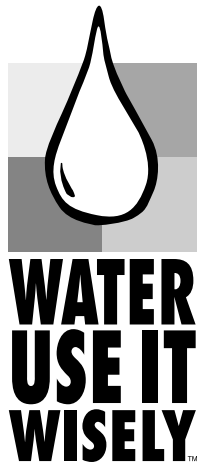
Now open at Terminal 4 just outside of the baggage claim level on the west end is the "Bone Yard," a fenced and lighted area where dog owners can take their pets for a break while waiting for their flights.

Flagstone paths lead to two entrances to an area which has been designed in the shape of a bone. Inside are buckets with fresh water, a decorative fire hydrant and "mutt mitts" for owners to clean up after their pets.

Sky Harbor is one of only a few airports in the country that offers such an amenity for travelers and their pets.



Water, wastewater rates rise



Some water and wastewater customers will pay a little more beginning this month.

The average water and wastewater portion of the municipal services bill, which also includes trash collection, increased \$1.76 to \$35 from \$33.24, keeping the city's water among the least expensive in the Valley and the

nation's 20 largest cities.

The new charge represents increases of 4 percent for water service and 7 percent for wastewater service. The additional revenues primarily will address the city's aging infrastructure needs.

In addition, the environmental charge will increase to 14 cents per unit from 11 cents.

Rehabilitation and replacement of water and wastewater lines, security enhancements, continued attention to increased public health and environmental standards, and improvements to other water and wastewater infrastructure are required to maintain the value and high service level required for the nation's sixth largest city.

The average increase is based upon the typical single-family residential customer – a household using 11,200 gallons of water per month. The new water rates apply to the volume of water used and not the monthly service charge. The comparison of per unit volume rates (for customers inside the city) from last year to this year is:

MONTHS OF USAGE	OLD RATE	NEW RATE
Low Months: Dec., Jan., Feb., March	\$1.26	\$1.30
Medium Months: April, May, Oct., Nov.	\$1.49	\$1.53
High Months: June, July, Aug., Sept.	\$1.89	\$1.94

Neighborhood Services wins energy award

The city's Neighborhood Services Department has been recognized as a leader in energy-efficient home building and environmentally conscious building practices.

The NAHB Research Center awarded the department its Energy Value Housing Award in the affordable home/hot climate category for the department's commitment to building energy-efficient homes.

Neighborhood Services builds six to 10 houses a year.

Contest judges pointed to a 1,500 square-foot home built by the department that features energy efficient windows, wall, ducts, saying the house should be a model for other city projects throughout the country.

For more information on the department, call 602-262-7344 or visit phoenix.gov/NSD. For

more information on the awards program, visit www.nahbrc.org/evha or send e-mail to evha@nahbrc.org



Asian Festival April 16 – 18

Cultural booths, ethnic food and live entertainment will be featured at the annual Arizona Asian Festival next month in downtown Phoenix.

The free event at Patriot's Square Park, Central Avenue and Washington Street, will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

For more information, call 480-722-2996 or 480-296-8976.



River Rampage seeks participants

It may not be too late to go on an expedition of a lifetime.

The city's Adaptive Recreation Services River Rampage program may have a spot left on a raft for you.

The Parks and Recreation Department program is an outdoor adventure for youth 14 to 20 years old who face significant physical or cognitive challenges. There is no fee charged to eligible youth to take part, although before their trip, participants must perform 40 hours of volunteer work with the help of a mentor.

Individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities may request an application by calling 602-262-4543 or TTY 602-534-2491 or by sending e-mail to tj.penkoff@phoenix.gov. Applications are available in English, Spanish, Braille and large print.



Exchange food for library fines

Don't let overdue fines keep you away from the library.

For every nonperishable food item donated from April 18 to May 1, the library will forgive 50 cents in overdue fines. Donations will benefit the Arizona Food Bank members.



All 13 city libraries are participating in the annual Food for Fines program as part of National Library Week.

For more information, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636.

Park rangers offer outdoor programs



There's still time to catch an outdoor hike or education program offered by park rangers with the Parks and Recreation Department.

The seasonal program, designed for people of all ages and ability levels,

continues through early May.

Still on the program are Stargazing

at South Mountain April 9; an early Earth Day celebration at the South Mountain Environmental Education Center April 17; a nature journaling hike at Papago Park April 25; and a look at the Hohokam Indians at South Mountain Park May 8.

The programs are free or low cost. Space is limited and reservations may be needed. For more information, call 602-495-0222 or visit www.phoenix.gov/PARKS/hikes.html.

Get out your bike and join the fun

It's time to shine up your spokes and dust off your bike helmet. Valley Metro hosts its annual Valley Bike Week activities April 17 to 25 to remind residents and commuters that Phoenix is a great place to ride a bike.

You can join in the fun by taking part in one or more of the following events:



- Bike Week Contest – Ride your bike during the week and enter to win two round-trip airline tickets on American Airlines and other prizes. You can register beginning Saturday, April 17, at ValleyMetro.org.
- Swap Meet – 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, 5999 E. Van Buren St. Free to buyers and sellers.
- Bike to Work Day – Wednesday, April 21. Check with your employer.
- Bike to BOB – Sunday, April 25. Ride from Margaret T. Hance Park to Bank One Ballpark to watch the Diamondbacks play the San Diego Padres. Registration of \$12 includes ticket, t-shirt, breakfast and prizes

For more information, call 602-262-RIDE (7433) or visit ValleyMetro.org.

Quarterly bulk trash pickup schedule – spring 2004

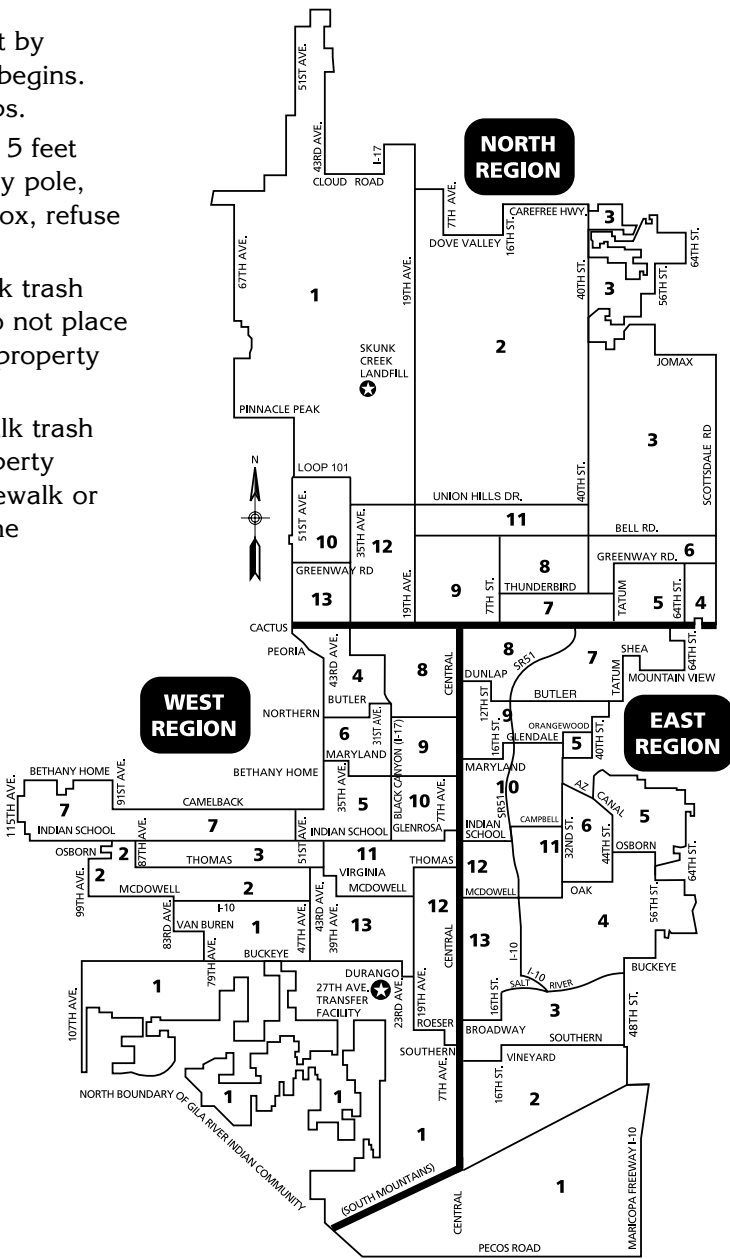
City crews collect bulk trash four times a year. Some items are not acceptable for bulk trash collection. Please visit the city’s Web site or call customer service (see Web address and telephone number at the end of this article) for more information. To take advantage of this residential collection:

- ⇒ Locate your area number on the map.
- ⇒ Find the area number on the schedule.
- ⇒ The first date listed is the date you may begin placing bulk trash out for collection.
- ⇒ The second date listed is the date city crews will begin collection.
- ⇒ Bulk trash must be placed out by 6 a.m. on the date collection begins. Crews do not make return trips.
- ⇒ Trash must be placed at least 5 feet from any object, such as utility pole, cable box, water meter, mailbox, refuse container, etc.
- ⇒ For alley collection, place bulk trash behind your property only. Do not place trash behind your neighbor’s property or in utility easements.
- ⇒ For street collection, place bulk trash on the front edge of your property behind and parallel to the sidewalk or curb. Do not place trash on the sidewalk or in the street.

⇒ City ordinance allows one week prior to the scheduled collection week to place bulk trash out for collection. It is a violation to place bulk trash out before the “placement begins” date listed. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action.

For more information, call Customer Service at 602-262-7251 or send e-mail to pwwserve@phoenix.gov. The collection schedule appears quarterly in *Notes* and it also can be found on the city’s Web site at phoenix.gov/GARBAGE.

AREA	PLACEMENT	COLLECTION BEGINS
4	March 27	April 5
5	April 3	April 12
6	April 10	April 19
7	April 17	April 26
8	April 24	May 3
9	May 1	May 10
10	May 8	May 17
11	May 15	May 24
12	May 22	June 31
13	May 29	June 7
1	June 5	June 14
2	June 12	June 21
3	June 19	June 28



City hosts certification workshops

Minority, women and small business owners in Maricopa County are invited to free monthly workshops to learn about the city's business certification programs.

The Equal Opportunity Department workshops provide in-depth information about the requirements, process and benefits of becoming certified with the city as a minority-owned, woman-owned or small business enterprise.

Call 602-262-6790 or 602-534-1557/TTY to reserve a space.

Upcoming workshops are:

- ◆ April 20, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.
- ◆ May 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., South Mountain Community Center, 212 E. Alta Vista Road
- ◆ June 15, 6 - 8 p.m., Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.
- ◆ June 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane
- ◆ July 13, 6 - 8 p.m., Sunnyslope Community Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave.
- ◆ Aug. 10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.
- ◆ Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Ahwatukee Foothills Senior Center, 5051 E. Elliott Road



Training, jobs available for school dropouts

Applications are being accepted for Youthbuild Phoenix, a full-time, yearlong construction training and education program targeted to young people who are low income, have dropped out of high school and are unemployed.

The program, available to men and women ages 17 to 24 who are Phoenix residents, provides training in construction skills, academic instruction, GED preparation, leadership development and life skills and offers a stipend of \$300 every two weeks.

An application and personal interview, along with right-to-work documentation, are required as part of the application process.

The program is sponsored by the Human Services Department in partnership with Arizona Call-A-Teen and Labor's Community Service Agency. For more information or to apply, call 602-534-3687.



Phoenix is nation's most disability friendly city

Phoenix has won national recognition as the most accessible friendly city for people with disabilities in the National Organization on Disability's third annual Accessible America Contest.

The recognition included a cash award of \$25,000, which will be used to further efforts to assist people with disabilities.

Phoenix, which won out over 63 other cities, was recognized for its focus on disability issues and the successful design of programs, services and facilities that are accessible to residents and visitors with disabilities. More than 17 percent of the city's 1.3 million residents are disabled.

Recycle your old phone books

New telephone directories – both residential White and business Yellow – will be delivered to homes throughout Phoenix this month and next month. Be sure to recycle your old books by placing them in your blue recycle barrel.

BOPA collections set

Phoenix residents can dispose of household hazardous waste and other items at BOPA collections, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 through 10 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, Bethany Home Road and Central Avenue, and May 13 through 15 at Desert West Park, 6602 W. Encanto Blvd.

In addition to batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze, the event will accept five automobile or light truck tires per resident, computers and household appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, evaporative coolers, air conditioners, washers, dryers and water heaters.

Commercial loads will not be accepted.

The city also will pick up household appliances and computers at your home for a \$10 fee. Call to schedule a collection. For information, call 602-262-7251, send e-mail to pwserve@phoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/GARBAGE.



City offers fair housing workshop

Phoenix will recognize Fair Housing Month in April with a special two-hour workshop where fair housing laws will be discussed.

The free Equal Opportunity Department workshop will be 6 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in the first floor assembly rooms at Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.

It will offer information on how fair housing practices apply to houses, apartments, condominiums and mobile home parks and how it is illegal for housing providers to discriminate against tenants, rental applicants or customers on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status.

Registration is suggested. To sign up, call 602-262-7486/voice or 602-534-1557/TTY.

Interfaith Movement topic of lunch talk



The Arizona Interfaith Movement, consisting of 18 major faith groups, will be discussed by Dr. Paul Eppinger, executive director, and other members at the city's Faces of Diversity

Brown Bag lunch series at noon Friday, April 23.

The free presentation at Phoenix City Council Chambers, 200 W. Washington St., will give an overview of how the faiths differ, the many ways in which they unite and how the movement seeks to build unity in the community.

The series is sponsored by the Human Relations Commission and Equal Opportunity Department. For more information, call 602-261-8242 or 602-534-1557/TTY.

notes

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Landfill/Disposal Information	602-262-7251
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City of Phoenix

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